

50X1-HUM

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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50X1-HUM

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Immediately following World War II, the Bulgarian population still had a relatively high morale since it felt that the precarious situation in which it found itself was temporary. The people hoped for an imminent change which would have been brought about by a third world war, the victors naturally being the West. Furthermore, following World War II there was still a certain amount of financial well being, and many of the things needed in every day life were still to be found in the homes.
2. At present, on the other hand, the situation has become more difficult. The hopes for a solution to the Bulgarian problem by means of a Western intervention are weakening. Everything is morally and materially under control and for this reason the masses have succumbed to the existing circumstances in order to survive and they have lost their stamina.
3. Of the Bulgarian population, 10-15 percent are content with the present situation and consist of high political officials and artists who are members of the Bulgarian Communist Party and receive high awards which make it possible for them to live well; 45 percent were not well off even prior to World War II and are in similar conditions at present (farmers, handicraftsmen, common laborers, etc.) and are not in favor of the present regime since their living standard has remained the same as it used to be or has deteriorated; and 40 percent are discontented. These last are composed of those who do not exercise the professions for which they are qualified, or who, in any case, receive wages far below those they once received (former engineers who for political reasons were forced to become laborers; professionals in general who are poorly paid; etc.)
4. The reasons for this widespread discontent in Bulgaria were merely political until 1951; since 1952, because of the currency devaluation and the low pay with respect to the cost of living, the economic factor has also entered into the picture. Furthermore, restrictions are placed on the freedom of the individual, such as postal censorship, the lack of shows with free subjects, the impossibility of reading freely, and the impossibility of going abroad. Only important personages or those who have plausible reasons, such as visits to very close relatives, are allowed to go abroad.

SECRET

50X1-HUM

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

50X1-HUM

- 2 -

5. In particular, the morale of doctors is very low since they are not allowed to specialize pursuant to their own desires or inclinations; the number of doctors who are allowed to specialize is specified in a program included in the Five Year Plan. The wages granted them by the State are very low. Only a few are allowed to go to the medical congresses held abroad and these few must be in good favor with the Communist Party, apart from their professional standing. They are not allowed to go abroad to continue their studies. The doctor is only an ordinary worker and is considered as such by the State and by his patients. The "family doctor" has now disappeared. There are no longer those bonds of affection and trustworthiness which once existed between doctor and patient.

50X1-HUM

SECRET

50X1-HUM